

NEW DESCRIPTIONS

The above differences are sufficient to establish *Acroceratitis maculata* as a new species.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ON A NEW SPECIES OF GENUS *STROPHOSOMOIDES* ASLAM FROM KASHMIR (TANYMECINAE, BRACHYDERINAE, CURCULIONIDAE, COLEOPTERA)¹

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(With three text-figures)

A new species *Strophosomoides pahalgamensis* is being described, raising the number of species under this genus to nine. A key to the known species is also provided.

INTRODUCTION

Out of 99 species of Indian Brachyderinae studied by us during a 5-year US. PL-480 project on Indian Curculionidae, as many as 28 species were found to be new. One such species belongs to genus *Strophosomoides* Aslam which is described in the present communication.

The genus *Strophosomoides* was raised by Aslam (1966) to include 8 species from Western Himalayas. Two of these species were collected from Kashmir valley. The present species has also been collected from Kashmir

valley, but is quite different from all the 8 recorded species. As the type species for the genus has not been named by Aslam (1966), *S. gulmargensis* Aslam is being designated as type species of this genus. An enlarged key to the 9 world species under this genus is also being included. The characterization of genus *Strophosomoides* has been revised by including the structure of genitalia.

Genus *Strophosomoides* Aslam

Aslam Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., 1966, Ser. 13, Vol. IX, p. 129

Head with frons produced laterally over eyes and separated from vertex there. Eyes lateral and sulcate above. Rostrum narrowed from base to apex dorsally; scrobe deep, curved

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either towards or away from eye; mandibular scar prominent. Antenna with scape variable; funicle with segment I slightly longer than 2, others moniliform. Prothorax transverse or as long as broad. Elytra without shoulders, gradually sloping or abruptly so near base. Legs with hind tibia not denticulate, corbels open; claws connate. Male genitalia with apex of aedeagus narrowly rounded; aedeagal apodemes longer than aedeagus; phallobasic apodeme shorter than aedeagal apodemes; endophallus with a sclerotized structure. Female genitalia with coxites longer than broad; styli longer than broad and beset with setae; spiculum ventrale thick and short, densely setose.

Type species: *Strophosomoides gulmargensis* Aslam.

Distribution: India: Pakistan.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF GENUS *Strophosomoides*
ASLAM

1. Upper margin of scrobe well defined and continued above eye. Frons and rostrum concave 2
- Upper margin of scrobe not well defined, interrupted by a raised area between scrobe and anterior margin of eye. Frons and rostrum not concave (except in *S. niger*) 3
2. Elytra roughly punctured and irregularly striate; third, fifth and seventh intervals more strongly raised than second, fourth and sixth; aedeagus long and curved *rugosus* Aslam
- Elytra uniformly punctured and regularly striate; dorsal intervals almost equally raised; aedeagus short and less strongly curved *gulmargensis* Aslam
3. Funicle with segment I not longer than 2 *pahalgamensis* sp. nov.
- Funicle with segment I longer than 2 4
4. Elytra impressed at base near suture, appearing keel shaped; frons and rostrum concave *niger* Aslam
- Elytra not impressed at base near suture; frons and rostrum almost flat 5
5. Mentum with more than two setae; second

- sternite of abdomen at sides as long as third and fourth together; antenna with scape not reaching posterior margin of eye 6
- Mentum with two setae; second sternite of abdomen at sides longer than third and fourth together; antenna with scape reaching posterior margin of eye 7
6. Aedeagus broad in middle, gradually narrowing to apex and base; elytra strongly humped and abruptly falling behind in female *championi* Aslam
- Aedeagus not broad at middle, gradually tapering from apex to base; elytra less humped and gradually falling behind in female *kumaonensis* Aslam
7. Elytra rounded at base and gradually sloping down to mesonotum *fastigatus* Aslam
- Elytra abruptly not rounded, vertical at base 8
8. Rostral furrow broad and not reaching vertex, pronotum finely granulate; body narrow *kaghanensis* Aslam
- Rostral furrow narrow and reaching vertex; pronotum coarsely granulate; body robust *kohistani* Aslam

***Strophosomoides pahalgamensis* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1-3)

Head with frons piceous, produced laterally over eyes and separated from vertex there, with a broad and shallow median furrow. Eyes black, almost circular and moderately prominent. Rostrum piceous, almost as long as broad, abruptly narrows down to apex; upper surface shallowly punctate, with a broad median furrow; scrobe deep and curved at a distance from eye; mandible scar conspicuous. Antennae with scape gradually clavate, exceeding middle of eye; funicle with joint 1 not longer than 2, 3-7 moniliform and subequal; club compact and ovate.

Prothorax much broader than long, strongly rounded laterally, broadest about middle, apex narrower than base; upper surface granulate dorsally and laterally, each granule with a seta, with a broad and shallow median furrow;

pattern formed by pale brown scales and setae. Scutellum indistinct.



Fig. 1. *Strophosomoides pahalgamensis* sp. nov.:
Adult.

Elytra piceous, subquadrate, shoulders not distinct, broadest about middle, base jointly and deeply sinuate and without margin, apices broadly rounded; surface convex, finely punctato-striate, intervals broad; pattern formed by pale brown scales, short and depressed setae in apical half, long and erect setae in basal half. Legs with tibiae finely serrate, corbels open; claws connate.

Abdomen with intercoxal process arcuate; visible sternite 2 almost equal to 3 and 4 together and separated from 1 by an angulated shallow furrow.

Male genitalia with aedeagus moderately sclerotized, with apex narrowly rounded; aedeagal apodemes longer than aedeagus; phal-

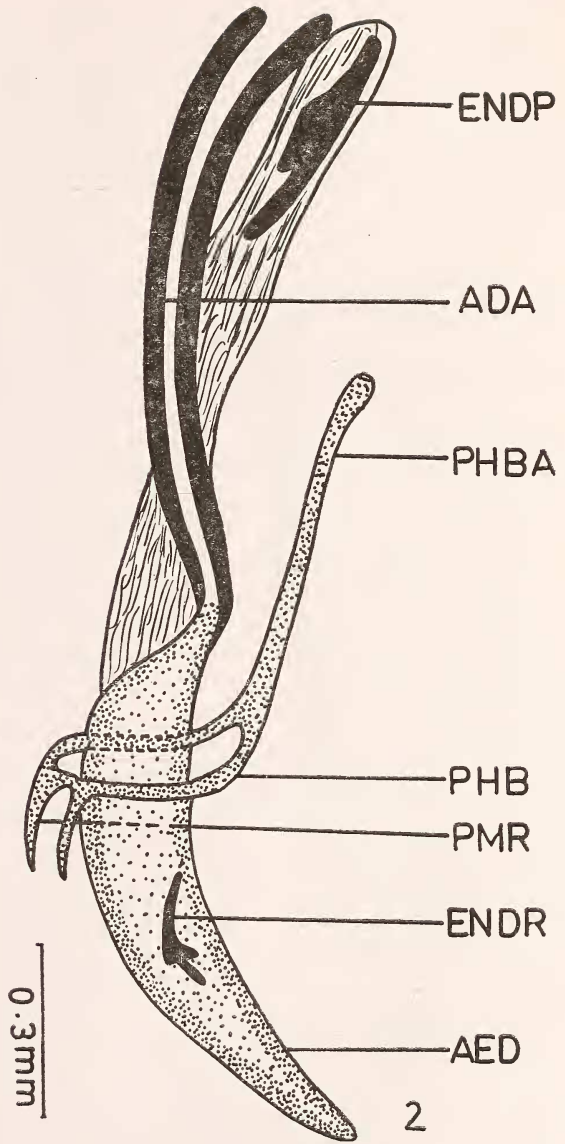


Fig. 2. *Strophosomoides pahalgamensis* sp. nov.:
Male genitalia.

Abbreviations: ADA, Aedeagal apodeme; AED, Aedeagus; ENDP, Endophallic plate; ENDR, Endophallic rod; PHB, Phallobase; PHBA, Phallobasic apodeme; PMR, Paramere.

lotreme subapical; phallobasic apodeme shorter than aedeagal apodemes, parameres short; endophallus with transparent mass having short sclerotized rods. Female genitalia with coxites moderately sclerotized, much longer than broad (4.5:1) and sparsely setose; styli a little longer than broad and beset with 2 setae at apex; spiculum ventrale sclerotized and elongated, much dilated at base, densely setose; spermatheca with cornu narrowly pointed; ramus distinct at level with collum.

Measurements: Length of body: ♂, 2.8-3.0 mm.; ♀, 2.9-3.1 mm.; Width of body: ♂, 1.5-1.6 mm.; ♀, 1.4-1.6 mm.; Length of rostrum: ♂, 0.4-0.5 mm.; ♀, 0.4-0.5 mm.; Width of rostrum: ♂, 0.3-0.4 mm.; ♀, 0.4-0.5 mm.

Holotype: MALE: Kashmir, Srinagar, Zabormon hill, Pari Mahal (understones), 25.5.1967, Dr. Topal. Paratype: 1 male, 1 female: Kashmir, Pahalgam (extracted grass clumps), 3.6.1967, Dr. G. Topal. (Types deposited in FRI, Dehradun).

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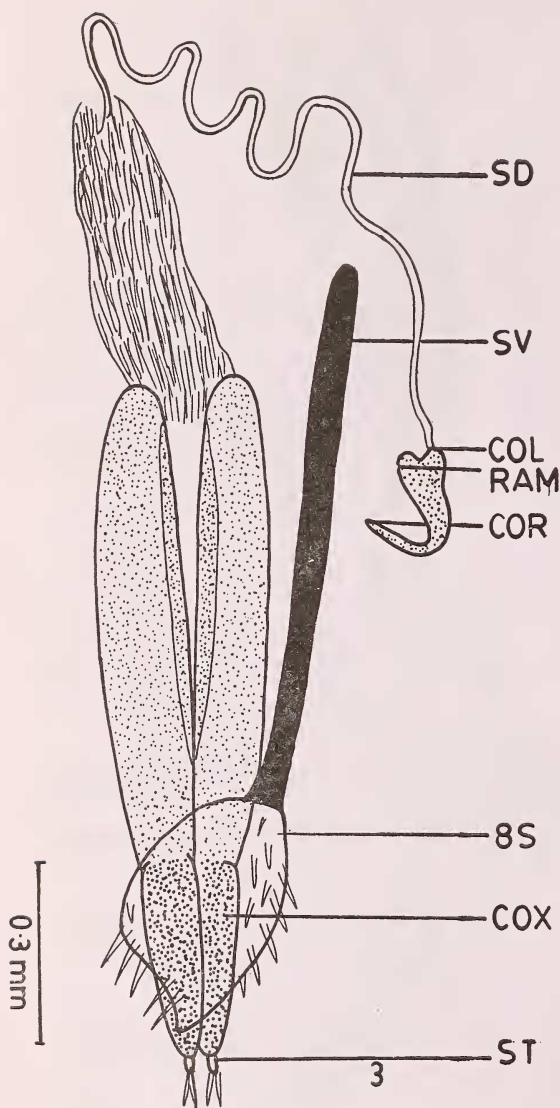


Fig. 3. *Strophosomoides pahalgamensis* sp. nov.: Female genitalia.

Abbreviations: COL, Collum; COR, Cornu; COX, Coxites; RAM, Ramus; SD, Spermathecal duct; ST, Stylus; 8S, 8th sternum; SV, Spiculum ventrale.